

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

www.house.gov/spratt | www.house.gov/budget_democrats

Monday, March 01, 2004 – For Immediate Release

Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

Application Period Opens for Firefighters Grants

WASHINGTON – Fire departments can apply for federal firefighters grants between March 1 and April 2, 2004, according to U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC).

Applications and information are available on two web sites, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp and www.usfa.fema.gov. Fire departments with questions about the program should contact the fire grant help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or by email at firegrants@dhs.gov.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, run by the Office of Homeland Security, assists rural, urban, and suburban fire departments throughout the country. The funds are used by firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, improve firefighter health and safety, and to establish or expand fire prevention programs.

Spratt has been a strong supporter of funding for first responders. “Ten years ago,” said Spratt, “Congress passed a bill that I authored along with former Senator Nunn of Georgia, calling attention to the emerging threat of terrorism at home and the spread of unconventional weapons. We pointed to the need for funding first responders in the awful case of a catastrophe. We passed our bill and allocated funds for first responders in our budget resolutions; but it took 9/11 to drive home the need and secure the funds.

“It’s good to see the grants finally coming to our firefighters. We all hope the equipment these grants will buy will be used to improve routine fire protection and not be needed in a catastrophe. But the grants are a way for the federal government to say that first responders, like firefighters, play a more important role than ever.”

#